

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/377,322	BEZOS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Naeem Haq	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 45-50, 53-55, and 63.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

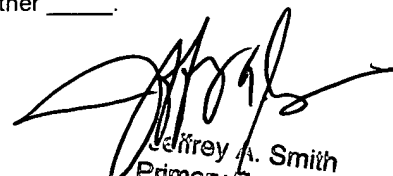
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/14/2004</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/20/06</u> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|


 Jeffrey A. Smith
 Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Decision from Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

This action is in response to the Decision from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences dated January 13, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Ronald Schoenbaum on February 20, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows: Cancel claims 1-44, 51, 52, and 56-62.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 45-50, 53-55, and 63 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Statement of allowance is in reference to independent claims 45 and 53. All other claims are dependencies of these independent claims. This allowance is based on the Decision rendered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on January 13, 2006.

The present application is directed to a computer-implemented method of assisting users in selecting items to purchase from an electronic catalog. The independent claims recite the uniquely patentable feature of "maintaining community data indicative of user memberships within specific explicit-membership communities that users explicitly join."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Discussion of most relevant prior art:

The following references have been identified as the most relevant prior art to the claimed invention.

(i) US Patent 6,041,311 to Chislenko et al. (Chislenko): Chislenko teaches a method of using collaborative filtering to make personalized recommendations to users online. However, Chislenko fails to teach or suggest the limitation "maintaining community data indicative of user memberships within specific explicit-membership communities that users explicitly join."

(ii) US Patent 6,321,221 to Bieganski: Bieganski teaches a computer-implemented method of assisting users in selecting items to purchase. However, Bieganski fails to teach or suggest the limitation "maintaining community data indicative of user memberships within specific explicit-membership communities that users explicitly join."

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(iii) No Author, "Just Add People – Collaborative filtering brings human input to information retrieval in the enterprise" (Dialog): Dialog discloses collaborative filtering.

However, Dialog fails to teach or suggest the limitation "maintaining community data indicative of user memberships within specific explicit-membership communities that users explicitly join."

(ii) WO 03/077112 A1 (WIPO): WIPO generally relates to the field of collaborative filtering. WIPO has a publication date after the Applicants' filing date and therefore fails to qualify as a proper reference.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naeem Haq whose telephone number is (571)-272-6758. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn W. Coggins can be reached on (571)-272-7159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

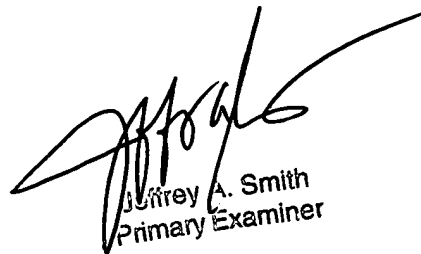
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Naeem Haq, Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3625

February 18, 2006



Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner